



## City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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### For Immediate Release

### **Diego Flores-Cerezo Named 2019 Gaithersburg Junior Mayor**

***Gaithersburg, MD (April 9, 2019).*** Out of more than 50 entries submitted by resident 4th graders in the City of Gaithersburg, Diego Flores-Cerezo of Summit Hall Elementary School has been selected as Gaithersburg's next Junior Mayor. His first appearance will be at the State of the City Address on April 25, where the gavel will be passed by current Junior Mayor Zayd Salahuddin of Dufief Elementary School. Diego will be officially introduced to the public at the Mayor and City Council meeting on June 3.

The "If I Were Mayor..." contest, sponsored statewide by the Maryland Municipal League (MML), the Maryland Mayors Association and the Chesapeake Employers Insurance Company, invites fourth grade students to submit essays describing what they would do as Mayor. This year's theme was "Together We Can." Students were asked to define a specific issue or cause in their community and explain how they would solve it, how they would enlist the help of others, and how they would communicate the positive changes taking place in their community as a result.

While essays from Gaithersburg students are submitted to MML for consideration in the statewide contest, they were also independently reviewed by members of the Gaithersburg Educational Enrichment Committee and City staff for consideration as Gaithersburg's Junior Mayor. Five finalists were invited to City Hall for a videotaped panel interview. Diego was selected as the winner.

Diego's essay addressed pedestrian safety. "What I would do as mayor is add more stop signs to intersections, proper speed limits, and traffic lights on streets where there are none," he wrote. Diego believes pedestrian safety is an important issue and wants to make the City's streets less dangerous for its most vulnerable citizens. In his interview, Diego mentioned he would get the community involved by having volunteers create murals that encourage safe driving.

The Junior Mayor will be invited to join Mayor Jud Ashman and members of the City Council at public ceremonies and events throughout the year. He will also have the opportunity to host a community service project at his school, in which the Mayor and City Council will participate. Diego's winning essay is posted on the City's website at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov). For more information on the Junior Mayor program contact the City of Gaithersburg Public Information Office at 301-258-6310.

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